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MEMORANDUM

To: ***** , Title I Director
Metro/Nashville Public Schools

From: Barbara Alexander, Education Consultant
Office of Federal Programs

Date: October 6, 2003

Subject: Understanding Children in Poverty

Those of you who work with Title I children are aware that these students and their families are financially challenged. Typically, poverty is thought of in terms of financial resources only. The reality of the situation is that financial resources, while extremely important, do not explain the differences in the success with which individuals leave poverty nor the reasons that many stay in poverty. The ability to leave poverty is more dependent upon resources other than financial resources. Those other resources are: emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, support systems, relationships/role models, and knowledge of hidden rules.

The Office of Federal Programs is continuing the theme "Understanding Children in Poverty" for the 2003-04 school year. This office has set a goal of having every administrator, teacher, and staff person who works with Title I students develop a better understanding of poverty and the resources or lack of resources and their effect on the students and the families of these students. Two training seminars have been scheduled. The first is a two-day seminar to be held on January 12 and 13, 2004. The January seminar is a prerequisite for the Train the Trainers seminar that will be held April 26-29, 2004. You must attend both seminars to become a certified trainer. It is the intention of the Office of Federal Programs that the certified trainers provide professional development for all Title I administrators, teachers, and staff, in their school system.

These seminars are limited to 200 participants. Registration preference will be given to 1) educators from school districts with high priority schools, 2) educators from school districts that did not send representatives to the training last school year, and 3) other applicants.

The Office of Federal Programs will cover the major portion of the \$695.00 training costs for the two seminars. The cost to the school system will be \$150.00 per person. The school system will be responsible for travel, lodging, and meal expenses. The registration deadline is November 28, 2003.

To reserve your space(s) for these two seminars, see the attached flyer/registration form for more information.

If you have questions, you may contact me via telephone (615) 532-6302 or by e-mail Barbara.Alexander@state.tn.us